

Please amend Claim 16, second occurrence as follows:

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16. (amended) A method as recited in claim 13:

wherein a node in an ACTIVE state cannot send any update messages or add neighbors to any successor set;

wherein after receiving replies from all its neighbors, the node is allowed to modify the successor sets and report any changes that may have occurred since the time it has transitioned to ACTIVE state; and

wherein if none of the distances increased beyond the reported distance, the node transitions to PASSIVE state.

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